imbalance in favour of India has worried Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some measures to end such a situation in terms of its policy to ensure equal development of its neighbours; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Reports to this effect have come to Government's notice.

(c) and (d) The Government have all along followed the policy of promoting and facilitating imports from Bangladesh. There is no discrimination of any kind against imports from Bangladesh, and also Indian investments in that country. Tariff concessions or waivers are available to Bangladesh on a number of items under the Bangkok Agreement, and now on another 59 items with the operationalisation of the SAPTA Agreement. Already India's imports from Bangladesh during April-September, 1995 have grown by 304.9% over the previous corresponding period, following annual growth rates of 123.2% in 1994-95, 55.8% in 1993-94, and 154.2% in 1992-93.

Subsidiary of FCI

2142. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has a proposal to set up a subsidiary exclusively devoted to export of surplus foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details of this proposal;

(c) whether this subsidiary would be based in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir,

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Expansion of Thermal Plants of Neyveli Lignite Corporation

2143. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Neyveli Lignite Corporation has given any proposal for expansion of its thermal plants;

(b) if so, whether the same has been cleared by Public Investment Board (PIB);

(c) if so, the estimated cost and time of completion of the project;

(d) whether approval of Central Electricity Authority has been obtained; and

(e) if so, the likely date of starting the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for expansion of its first thermal power plant by 2×210 MW.

(b) The project proposal has been cleared by the Public Investment Board on 23.8.1995.

(c) The estimated cost of the project as cleared by the Public Investment Board is Rs. 1590.58 crores at 3/95. The estimated date of completion is 60 months after receipt of sanction of the Govt. of India in respect of both units.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The project would be started as soon as it is sanctioned by the Govt.